

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of the Police and Crime Commissioners' Treasurers Society newsletter, produced by the Technical Support Team.

The newsletter provides details of major announcements and consultations relevant to police finance, as well as a summary of recent news stories affecting police and local government.

Further news articles of relevance to members, Finance Update Reports presented at PACCTS meetings and member briefings detailing funding developments and announcements can be found on the [PACCTS website](#).

For further information please follow the links provided, or contact the Technical Support Team via the details at the bottom of each page.

Please click on the appropriate heading to be taken straight to the relevant part of the newsletter.

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MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Riot Compensation Act

On the 22nd of August, the TST circulated an email, on behalf of Iain McCulloh, giving an overview of the Riot Compensation Act. Additionally, links to some resources to help forces with any claims were included and can be found below.

The riots at the end of July and early August resulted in damage to public and private property. In some cases, the PCC must cover these costs. In the event of a riot, victims of the resulting criminal damage to property, and insurers who pay out for riot damages, are entitled to claim for certain types of loss from the claim authority responsible for the geographical area where the riot took place. For most of England and Wales, the Claims Authorities are the Police and Crime Commissioners or Mayoral Offices, except in London where responsibility falls to MOPAC and City of London.



The PCCs liability for these losses arises under the Riot Compensation Act 2016 and Regulations made under it, the Riot Compensation Regulations 2017, which came into force on 6 April 2017. Individual claims are capped at £1m.

Under the Riot Compensation Act 2016, a riot does not need to be formally declared by someone for compensation claims to be valid. The Act uses the statutory definition of a riot from section 1(1) of the Public Order Act 1986, which simplifies the process of determining whether a riot has occurred for the purposes of compensation claims.

As part of the letter circulated, the TST asked for a short survey to be filled in so as to provide information on claims received. This will allow PACCTS to inform the Home Office of the total potential costs to be met from police funds and seek financial support from the Treasury.

As of 29 August, there have been 12 claims lodged, 11 of which from the recent riots amounting to £1.3m. This is based on responses from 23 members. If you haven't already done so, please submit a return to the TST as soon as possible.

As of the 23rd of August, the APCC have also shared their overview of the Riot Compensation Scheme.

-  Legislation Website: [Riot Compensation Act](#)
-  GOV Website: [Riot Compensation Guidance](#)
-  CII Website: [Riot Claims Handling Best Practice Guide](#)
-  APCC Website: [Riot Compensation Scheme](#)

The King's Speech

On 17 July 2024, King Charles made his second King's Speech as monarch (in addition to the 2022 Queen's Speech), in the State Opening of Parliament following the 2024 General Election in which the Labour Party won a large majority. Background briefing notes to the Speech have been published in the usual way.

The King's Speech began by stating that "My Government's legislative programme will be mission led and based upon the principles of security, fairness and opportunity for all. Stability will be the cornerstone of my Government's economic policy and every decision will be consistent with its fiscal rules".

The 'on the day' briefing of the King's Speech summarises all 40 Bills. Some of the bills that will be of interest to the sector are as follows:

- **Crime and Policing Bill** – aims to increase public confidence in policing. Includes measures to
 - Rebuild neighbourhood policing,
 - Deliver higher policing standards,
 - Crack down on anti-social behaviour,
 - Tackle retail crime,
 - Tackle knife crime,
 - Provide a stronger response to violence against women and girls.
- **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill** – also known as Martyn's Law.
- **Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill** – aims to stop the criminal gangs and reform the asylum system.
- **Victims, Courts and Public Protection Bill** - aims to strengthen the Victims' Commissioner's powers and require offenders to attend sentencing hearings.
- **Mental Health Bill** – includes measures to remove police stations and prisons as places of safety under the Mental Health Act.
- **Draft Equality (Race and Disability) Bill** – includes a mandate for ethnicity and disability pay reporting for larger employers (those with 250+ employees).

The full briefing can be found below.

 PACCTS Website: [Briefing](#)

Cabinet Reshuffle

On Friday, 5 July, Keir Starmer announced his new cabinet. Unsurprisingly, Rachel Reeves became the Chancellor of the Exchequer after being shadow chancellor since 2021. Angela Rayner has been confirmed as the Deputy Prime Minister as well as the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (the new name for DLUHC, after "Levelling Up" was dropped from the Department's name).

The Home Secretary position has gone to Yvette Cooper, who also held the shadow role in opposition. Since the initial announcement, the other roles in the Home Office have also been announced. The Policing Minister has been confirmed as Dame Diana Johnson, with Dan Jarvis securing a role as Minister for Security. Angela Rayner has been selected as the Minister for Border Security, with Jess Phillips as the Minister for Safeguarding and VAWG.

If you want more information, the APCC has conducted a piece of work outlining each of the key ministerial and shadow ministerial appointments related to policing.

 APCC Website: [Briefing](#)

PUBLICATIONS

APCC Guidance: Overview of Transfers to a Mayoral Police/Fire Governance model

Published: 09 August 2024

The APCC released a document that outlines how Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) functions can be transferred to a Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) or a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA). An amended [Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009](#) enables Mayors of Combined Authorities to take on PCC and FRA functions. Additionally, the consent requirements for transferring PCC functions to a combined authority were amended in [section 62 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023](#).

The rest of the document covers both the legislative process and the practicalities of a transfer.

 APCC Website: [Guidance](#)

Police Staff Council Pay Negotiations 2024/25

Published: 09 August 2024

Following the [announcement](#) of the 4.75% pay award for police officers in July 2024, ongoing informal discussions are taking place with the Police Staff Council regarding the police staff pay award, according to the APCC.

According to an APCC circular (84/2024), the Trade Union has submitted a pay claim for 10% on all pay points. They have also asked for significant restructuring and an increase in pay to the lower quartile of the pay spine.

It is likely that the Police Staff Council may respond with a 4.75% pay offer.

Further details about the police officer pay award can be found in this newsletter.

Police Funding for England and Wales 2015 to 2025

Published: 08 August 2024

The Home Office has published a detailed breakdown of policing funding for the years ending March 2016 to March 2025. The report also includes a narrative outlining the difficulties in making comparisons prior to March 2016, while also providing a high-level summary from March 2011 onwards.

Overall, the funding agreed for the financial year ending March 2025 represents an increase of up to 19.2% in real terms compared to the financial year ending March 2016.

The publication includes a link for those who wish to provide feedback and help shape future statistical reports.

 GOV Website: [Statistics](#)

 GOV Website: [User Engagement](#)

Police Pay Award

Published: 06 August 2024

On 6 August, the Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, wrote to the Chair of the APCC, Donna Jones, confirming the details of the police pay award for 2024-25. The letter states that "while the

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recommendation for a consolidated award of 4.75% is significantly above what had been budgeted for in the 2021 Spending Review, it is right that we accept it in full." In recognition of the funding pressure, the Home Office will provide an extra £175m in 2024-25 to support forces with the cost of the pay increase. This funding is expected to cover the portion of the pay award that exceeds 2.5%.

The Home Office is yet to provide a breakdown of the £175m. According to a Home Office representative, the delay was due to the recent violent disorder and a breakdown will be provided to PACCTS as soon as it is available.

 APCC Website: [Letter](#)

Local Audit Backlog Proposals

Circulated: 31 July 2024

On 31 July, Jim McMahon, the Minister of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, wrote to all local authorities to inform them of the action that has been taken in Parliament regarding the audit backlog in England.

The letter states that *"subject to parliamentary approval, for financial years 2024/25 to 2027/28, the date by which local bodies should publish 'draft' (unaudited) accounts will change from 31 May to 30 June following the financial year to which they relate"*. It continues, stating that they expect *"there will be full assurance, with "clean" opinions for many bodies by the first backstop date of 13 December 2024."* However, the letter also makes clear that there could be several hundred accounts that will garner 'disclaimed' audit opinions due to time constraints.

The full letter and statement can be found below.

 PACCTS Website: [Letter](#)

 GOV Website: [Statement](#)

Fixing the Foundations

Published: 30 July 2024


The Technical Support Team circulated a briefing that summarised an HM Treasury release entitled "[Fixing the Foundations](#)". This followed a statement that was given by the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, on her next steps to reduce in-year spending and further address the shortfall in the next Budget and Spending Review. According to the Treasury's Public Spending Audit, the DELs set out in the 2024 March Budget were insufficient to meet departments' spending pressures.

Some of the unfunded pressures identified include:

- Decision to extend the household support fund to September 2024 at a cost of £500m.
- A new qualification called "Advanced British Standards" - £260m pressure in 2024-25.
- Extension of the £2 bus fare cap and additional services support - £250m in 2024-25, also unfunded.

The full PACCTS briefing can be found below.

 PACCTS Website: [Briefing](#)

 GOV Website: [Statement](#)

 HM Treasury: [Fixing the Foundations](#)

CONSULTATIONS

OPEN

Ethical Use of Data and Technologies Guidance

Published: 02 August 2024

Closing: 11 October 2024

The College of Policing published a consultation on new guidance for data ethics and data-driven technologies in policing. According to the publication, advances in technology has meant that services delivered to the public can be more effective and efficient. Examples given include automatic number plate recognition and live facial recognition, which are already in use.

The College of Policing intends to utilise some of the latest advances in AI and automation for the following purposes:

- To investigate and prevent crime.
- To protect the public.
- To free up officers' time by cutting administration.

However, in order to do this, the public must have trust and confidence that the technology is being deployed for the right reasons.

As a consequence, the College of Policing wants to build on their [Code of Ethics](#) and [science and technology strategy](#) to create two new Authorised Professional Practices (APP) on data ethics and data-driven technologies.

The full consultation can be found at the link below. If you wish to respond a link to the questionnaire is provided. Please submit your response by 11 October.

 College of Policing Website: [Consultation](#)

 Microsoft Forms: [Respond](#)

NEWS ARTICLES

ECONOMY AND PUBLIC FINANCE

Expect more economic pain to come, warns senior UK cabinet minister

A senior cabinet minister has warned of more economic pain to come as the government prepares to restrict public spending in ways MPs and campaigners say could exacerbate the cost of living crisis.

Pat McFadden, the cabinet office minister, said that voters should expect the government to take further difficult decisions, as Keir Starmer prepares to give a speech accusing the Conservatives of leaving the country in "rubble and ruin".

Ministers are already under fire for their decision to end winter fuel payments for millions of pensioners, with Labour MPs warning that the decision could lead to a "cruel winter" for the most vulnerable people in the country. The prime minister is also under pressure to end the two-child benefit cap and extend the £1bn household support fund, which is due to end in September.

 Please access the news article [here](#)

Inflation rate rises for first time this year to 2.2%

The UK's inflation rate has risen for the first time this year, official figures show, external.

Overall prices rose by 2.2% in the year to July, slightly above the Bank of England's target of 2% where the rate had been since May.

A rise was widely predicted and is due to prices of gas and electricity falling by less than they did a year before. The increase is also less than many economists had expected.

The latest figures mean that prices are now rising faster across the UK than in previous months, but still at a slower pace than in 2022 and 2023 when households were hit especially hard by higher energy and food bills.

 Please access the news article [here](#)

UK ministers warned to prepare for tough decisions on spending

Cabinet ministers have been ordered to search for cost-cutting reforms and prepare for difficult decisions over spending, as chancellor Rachel Reeves and her team formally begin the process of compiling a pivotal review of public spending.

The chancellor has already made clear that she is planning to raise taxes and take tough decisions on welfare and spending in what will be a crucial autumn for the new Labour government. She will present her first budget and a spending review setting departmental budgets for this year and next.

Despite her surprise decision last month to end universal winter fuel allowance payments to pensioners as part of plans to close what she described as a £22bn black hole in spending, it is understood £16bn is still needed to bridge the gap this year.

 Please access the news article [here](#)

POLICE FINANCES

More than 1,300 residents take part in police survey

More than 1,300 people had their say on proposed policing priorities for a county over the next few years.

Darryl Preston, the Conservative police and crime commissioner (PCC) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, set out his draft policies in a survey completed by people in July and August.

His priorities included clamping down on crime and anti-social behaviour and supporting victims of crime and witnesses.


 Please access the news article [here](#)

Unpaid council tax surges to £6bn

Council tax arrears have soared to £6bn a year, a sign that the collection process is 'failing local authorities and taxpayers alike', according to a report.

The total has leapt from about £2.5bn a decade ago, according to the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ).

The think-tank's report calls for a 'more proportionate' approach to debt collection, with a clearer distinction between those who cannot pay and those who refuse to.

 Please access the news article [here](#)

Editor's Choice

Judicial review launched over police funding

A Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has launched a judicial review against the Home Office over the way it calculates how much money is allocated to police forces.

Lincolnshire PCC Marc Jones has repeatedly claimed the force is one of the worst funded in the country per resident, saying the current formula relies on "outdated" population statistics and metrics.

During a regional police and crime panel meeting he said: "The papers are lodged with the courts and the Home Office has until 12 August to respond to the paperwork that I've submitted."

The Home Office declined to comment citing ongoing legal proceedings.

 Please access the news article [here](#)

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

'Treated like an animal' - officers say Met racism getting worse

A black Metropolitan Police officer has described being treated like “an animal” by some of his white colleagues and accused the force of handing down “pathetic punishments” to those who have made racist comments.

He is one of 10 black and ethnic minority officers who told the BBC that racism is getting worse in Britain’s largest police force.

“They keep putting you down, putting you down until you break and you feel nothing, no confidence, nothing,” he said.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

PCC will conduct ‘full review’ after officers win discrimination claim

Thames Valley’s police and crime commissioner Matthew Barber said this was “clearly unacceptable” and will conduct a full review into force processes to “ensure this cannot happen in the future”.

The tribunal judge ruled that the failure to consider three officers for promotion because of their race was unlawful.

The three officers, Detective Inspector Phillip Turner-Robson, Inspector Graham Horton and Custody Inspector Kirsteen Bishop, who had each served with the force for between 19 and 26 years, brought the discrimination claim against Thames Valley Police arguing that they had been unfairly disadvantaged because they were white British.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

The police can’t be impartial while discriminating against white men

Frontline police officers and detectives routinely show courage when confronting the violent, dangerous and heinous. So you’d think police chiefs might be willing to really ask themselves whether their force is as impartial as many of them claim.

Putting aside relatively complex operational matters, such as the policing of protests and the response to crime itself, perhaps we can just examine the track record of the administration in some forces.

In just the last five years, British policing has plenty of examples of veering off course.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

POLICE DEMAND

Labour: ‘Shameful neglect’ of shoplifting must end

Police officers have almost entirely ceased punishing shoplifters despite the number of offences soaring to record levels, analysis of official figures reveals.

Insiders fear the almost total lack of enforcement is encouraging further criminal behaviour, with thieves feeling as though they will never be held responsible for their offences.

In the year to March this year just 431 shoplifters were handed fixed penalty notices, the lowest form of punishment used for theft of goods valued at under £100. This represents a 98 per cent drop from a decade ago, when 19,419 were issued. The majority of police forces did not issue a single penalty for shoplifting over the last year.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

More than 700 arrests made and 302 people charged over riots in England

Police investigating the riots led by the far right say they have made more than 700 arrests for alleged offences, and promised "hundreds" more to come.

Of the 741 arrests, 32 relate to online offences such as incitement, and the scale of the operation is shown by the fact the arrest took place in 36 of the 43 force areas across England and Wales.

Arrests include allegations of violent disorder, theft and antisocial behaviour, and police say the investigations across the country will probably last for months to come.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

Drug production booming in UK's empty high streets

Organised-crime groups have been targeting empty shops and pubs in town centres to grow cannabis on an industrial scale, say police bosses.

Over the past year, raids have been carried out in dozens of properties, from an old toy shop in Ayr, Scotland, to a former bank in Welshpool, Powys.

Vacant restaurants, cafes, nightclubs, bingo halls and office buildings have all been used to grow the drug, according to the National Police Chiefs, external' Council, external.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

POLICE GENERAL

Police 'tired of saying the same words' as Notting Hill Carnival 'marred' by violence

The Metropolitan Police has urged the public to come forward if they can help prevent any further violence at this year's Notting Hill Carnival.

The force said the annual event in west London celebrating Caribbean culture was "marred by unacceptable violence" after three people were stabbed, only "narrowly avoiding a fatality".

One of the victims - a 32-year-old woman who remains in a critical condition in hospital - had been attending with her young child on what was supposed to be the "family day" of the celebrations, police said.


 Please access the news article [here](#)

Zombie knife and machete amnesty scheme starts

An amnesty and compensation scheme for people in England and Wales who possess zombie-style knives and machetes is starting ahead of the weapons being banned next month.

New legislation will close a loophole and make it an imprisonable offence to own, make, transport or sell a wide range of what are called 'statement' knives favoured by criminal gangs.

People who currently legally possess such knives can hand them in to police stations without fear of prosecution and, in some cases, claim compensation.

 Please access the news article [here](#)

Don't jail 'keyboard warriors' who incited riot race hate, says church

Social media users who stirred up racial hatred during the riots should not be jailed, the Church of England's bishop for prisons has said.

The Bishop of Gloucester, the Rt Rev Rachel Treweek, said sending offenders to prison was "foolish" because it was unlikely to lead to rehabilitation, with community sentences more likely to make them change their ways.

At least four people have been jailed for offences related to inciting racial hatred or violence online, including a 53-year-old "keyboard warrior" who said on Facebook that mosques should be "blown up with the adults in it".

 Please access the news article [here](#)

Labour to establish specialist unit dedicated to preventing crime among young people

The government will establish a unit dedicated to preventing violent crime among young people to give teenagers the best start in life, the home secretary has announced.

The "young futures" unit will include setting up youth hubs and identifying those most at risk of being drawn into violence, exploitation, crime and anti-social behaviour. It comes following the killings of three children in Southport, which she described as "deeply traumatic and just absolutely awful".

 Please access the news article [here](#).

Police submit file of evidence in airport inquiry

Police have sent a file of evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service following an incident at Manchester Airport in which three officers were injured and a man kicked by a police officer.

Muhammad Fahir Amaaz was struck by a firearms officer after he and his brother Amaad Amaaz were arrested following a violent clash with police on 23 July.

Four men held in connection with the incident - including Mr Fahir Amaaz - remain on police bail.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

Police force improves but 'concerns remain'

A police force previously under special measures has made "significant efforts" to improve, but some concerns remain, say inspectors.

Wiltshire Police came out of special measures in May, having been placed in them for multiple failings.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services said the force had made progress, but was still concerned about how it investigates crime and protects the vulnerable.

Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Philip Wilkinson said the report showed the force had "come a long way".

 Please access the news article [here](#).

'Serious concerns' remain over how Met protects women

Britain's biggest police force is still failing to protect women and girls, two years after being put into special measures following the rape and murder of Sarah Everard.

An official inspection uncovered "serious concerns" about how the Metropolitan Police investigates crime, including evidence that victims are being put at risk by the Met's failure to "safely manage" sex offenders and domestic abusers.

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) cited examples of officers giving sex offenders advance notice of home visits, allowing them to conceal mobile phones and laptops they may be banned from possessing. Official guidance states that visits should be unannounced.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

JUSTICE

Fast-tracked riot charges will 'add to the backlog' of sexual offences in criminal justice system

Betsy Stanko, who helped create a new operating model for police when it comes to investigating rape, said it's "frustrating" that the same urgency hasn't been adopted for cases of violence against women.

A report into Operation Soteria - which was introduced last summer - has found a number of areas are preventing forces from making quick progress.

In nearly all police forces inspected, half of the investigators working on rape cases were found to not be fully qualified and are still in training.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

MoJ refused to repay living costs to wrongly convicted partly to save money

A controversial decision to refuse refunds to wrongly convicted prisoners who were charged for bed and board while in jail was made in part to save money, the Guardian has learned.

The move, which has prompted dismay among ex-prisoners who had tens of thousands of pounds stripped from compensation money to cover "living expenses" while in jail, was justified on the basis that ministers could not retrospectively change policy decisions.

However, a Ministry of Justice (MoJ) letter to some former prisoners, seen by the Guardian, said another consideration was avoiding the "significant administrative and other financial costs" if other victims of miscarriages of justice made similar claims.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

Ministers prepare extra 500 prison places to remand suspected rioters

Ministers are preparing an additional 500 prison places to cope with an influx of people expected to be held on remand over the next month, the Ministry of Justice said.

From next week, cells will be used at the newly repurposed HMP Cookham Wood, a former young offender institution in the village of Borstal in Kent, that was closed in March after it was called "inhumane" by a prison watchdog.

Officials will also accelerate fire safety work on abandoned cells across the estate, and open a new housing block at HMP Stocken in Rutland, East Midlands.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

Court delays lead to victims walking away – PCC

Crown court backlogs in Kent are causing victims to walk away from prosecutions, according to the county's police and crime commissioner.

Matthew Scott says the increased number of charges, insufficient court capacity and a shortage of staff are causing significant delays.

One victim, who had to wait five years from the time his abuser was charged to eventually being jailed, says the justice system "is in disarray", causing "turmoil" for survivors and their families.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

TECHNOLOGY

National Crime Agency threatens extraditions over rise in sextortion cases

The National Crime Agency has warned international cybercriminals that it could seek to extradite them as part of a crackdown to tackle an alarming rise in the numbers of young people being targeted for sextortion.

The agency said the gangs, often based in west Africa, were "not safe from prosecution in our country" and that it would seek justice for all victims of the crime.

In cases of sextortion, teenagers are tricked online into sending intimate pictures of themselves to fraudsters who then demand money and threaten to share the material with others.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

What is the Online Safety Act and why have riots reopened debates about it? Sara Amid concerns that the recent riots in the UK were fuelled by misinformation spread on social media, some have questioned whether the Online Safety Act passed last year needs to be revisited; however, Associate Professor Dr Olivia Brown and Postdoctoral Researcher Dr Alicia Cork of the

University of Bath argue that with parts of the Act not due to come into effect until late 2024, the effectiveness of the legislation won't be fully understood until it has been tested in another situation like the recent riots.

🔗 Please access the news article [here](#)

PRISONS

Under 100 spaces in men's prisons in England and Wales

There are fewer than 100 available spaces left across the male prison estate in England and Wales, the BBC understands.

Sources working across the penal system have said the bank holiday weekend created several challenges, with more arrests due to various festivals taking place, and inmates not released on as they usually would be.

However, they said more people were scheduled to be released in the coming days, which should create more space.

🔗 Please access the news article [here](#)

Riots push overcrowded prisons to breaking point triggering 'one in, one out' measures

Far-right riots have pushed Britain's prisons to breaking point as the government triggers emergency measures to ease overcrowding.

Experts fear hard-won capacity gained by releasing prisoners early has "rapidly evaporated" after at least 677 suspected rioters were charged following widespread disorder.

In Merseyside – where clashes first erupted following the killing of three schoolgirls last month – there were rumoured to be just two prison spaces left after rioters were hauled before the courts in fast-tracked hearings.

🔗 Please access the news article [here](#)